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26 February 1980

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LAW OF THE SEA

No. 113

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BRIEFS

USSR FLEET DEPARTURE FROM EQUATORIAL GUINEA--Yaounde, Cameroon, 25 Jan (AFP)--A Soviet fishing fleet--granted exclusive fishing rights by executed dictator Macias Nguema--has left the Equatorial Guinea island port of Luba, a reliable source said here today. The departure of the fleet follows a decision by the military government that overthrew Macias Nguema to end the contract with Moscow from January 1 this year. Luba, on Bioko Island (formerly Fernando Po), which also shelters Nalabo, the capital of this former Spanish colony, was once the operational centre for a Spanish fishing company, AFRIPESCA. Following the agreement with Macias Nguema--which even banned the local fishing industry--an armada of Soviet trawlers and factory ships moved in. Inhabitants of the isle, who were not allowed to fish (12,000 tons per year), were understood to have been compensated with frozen fish, reports say. Regular flights between Malabo and Moscow--two Tupolev 154S each week--ferried in and out a regular supply of Soviet fishing and marine experts. The new government, which overthrew Macias Nguema last August, has since signed a fishing agreement with Spain. This agreement is not however exclusive, and the authorities have pointed out that it leaves the door open for other countries to enjoy the same rights. [Text] [AB250957 Paris AFP in English 0933 GMT 25 Jan 80 AB]

SOVIETS IN NEW ZEALAND WATERS--Wellington, Wed: A Soviet trawler arrested by a New Zealand frigate last Saturday will be suspended from fishing in New Zealand waters for one month for using an undersize net. The Minister of Fisheries Mr MacIntyre, said yesterday that he was also considering taking action against the skipper and the trawl master of the Sokolinoye. The mesh of the net being used by the trawler was found to be smaller than the 60mm size required for fishing in the area where the trawler was found. The trawler was arrested by the frigate Taranaki while fishing southeast of New Zealand near Campbell Island. It arrived in Wellington, escorted by the frigate, yesterday afternoon.--AAP. [Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 13 Dec 79 p 17]

CSO: 5200

INTER-ASIAN AFFAIRS

TAIWAN ECONOMIC AFFAIRS MINISTRY CLARIFIES OFFSHORE RIGHTS

OW171405 Taipei LIENHO PAO in Chinese 14 Jan 80 p 1 OW

[Text] The Ministry of Economic Affairs in a recent letter to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs says: Our country's sovereign rights over mining on the continental shelf are not affected by the establishment of economic zones by any country.

The Ministry of Economic Affairs also points out: When in future our country negotiates with the Philippines on overlapping economic zones, we should insist, in consideration of the traditional operational grounds of our country's fishing boats, that the range of the Philippine economic zone be measured from the base line of the Philippine main island of Luzon.

Our government declared a 12-nautical-mile territorial sea and a 200-nautical-mile economic zone in September last year. The Executive Yuan instructed the concerned departments to discuss with related countries the joint development of marine resources, and recently the Ministry of Economic Affairs in a letter to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs offered explanations on the mining and fishery aspects.

The Ministry of Economic Affairs says: In the field of mining, discussions on joint development of marine resources with Japan, Korea and the Philippines should be guided by the following principles:

- Discussions should be conducted under the condition of mutual respect of sovereignty and benefit to both sides.
- They should not affect the five main mining zones we have already delimited and the contracts we have signed with the Gulf, (ta-yang-ko-lin-tun) and (te-ssu-fu) corporations of the United States.
- Joint explorations and development can be undertaken with either government or private investments.

The Ministry of Economic Affairs points out: The Bashi Channel is a traditional fishing ground for our country's fishing boats. If our fishing boats operate there without entering the Philippine territorial sea, the Philippine side should not interfere. As to other parts of the Philippines' exclusive economic zone, it seems that we can sign fishing agreements with the Philippines for the sake of our fishing boats or engage in private fishing cooperation along the same lines as our fishing cooperation with the (?Palau Islands) and Micronesia.

The Ministry of Economic Affairs feels that the Philippine declaration of a 200-nautical-mile economic zone seriously affects the passage and operations of our country's fishing vessels. It is indeed necessary to hold discussions with the Philippine side.

INTER-ASIAN AFFAIRS

BRIEFS

JOINT SQUID PROJECT--Canberra: Sixty-eight foreign squid-fishing boats will take part in nine joint fishing exercises off Victoria, Tasmania and South Australia in the 1979-80 season. The exercises are aimed at determining the commercial viability of squid fishing in the area. They will be conducted by Australian companies in conjunction with Japanese and Korean interests. The federal Primary Industry Minister, Mr Nixon, said that 19 boats found the best concentrations of squid in the western Bass Strait last season during late January and February. He said the vessels also fished off southern and eastern Tasmania and off eastern Australia, but considerable areas of water off eastern Victoria, SA and western Tasmania were not fully investigated. [Text] [Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 4 Dec 79 p 27]

JAPAN ON RELATIONS WITH ROK--Tokyo, Jan. 26 (HAPTONG)--Director General of the Japanese Fisheries Agency Nobuo Imamura said Friday Japan would consider its economic cooperation to South Korea if Korean fishermen restrain themselves from operating in the sea zone off Hokkaido in which trawlers are regulated. Director Imamura said in a press conference prior to his departure for Seoul where a fisheries directors meeting of the two countries is to be held on Jan. 28 and 29 that he would urge the Seoul government to observe the rules governing the regulated sea zone. He also pointed out that the excessive catch by Korean fishermen in the Japanese Sea off Hokkaido was partly caused by the proclamation of the 200-mile U.S. economic sea zone. Some of the Korean fishing boats operating in the Japanese Sea will move to the U.S. sea if the United States increases its fishing quota for South Korea, he forecast. [Text] [SK26044 Seoul HAPTONG in English 0238 GMT 26 Jan 80 SK]

ROK PROTESTS JAPANESE ATTACK--Seoul, Jan. 24 (HAPTONG)--The Korean Government today instructed its embassy in Tokyo to lodge a strong protest with the Japanese Government over an attack on a Korean fishing fleet in the high sea off Hokkaido. Foreign Ministry officials said the incident occurred Tuesday (Jan. 22) when a fishing fleet of six trawlers were debarred from operation in the open sea fishing ground by stone-throwing Japanese fishing boats. The ministry, quoting reports from the Korean Consulate General in Sapporo, said that at least 18 Japanese vessels joined in the unprovoked assault that caused damages to some of the Korean ships. It added the government plans to make an issue of the incident when directors of the fishery offices of the two countries meet in Seoul next Monday. [Text] [SK240829 Seoul HAPTONG in English 0818 GMT 24 Jan 80 SK]

CSO: 5200

AUSTRALIA

BRIEFS

SURVEILLANCE AIRCRAFT--Canberra.--A Brisbane company will share in contracts valued at \$10 million to operate seven Nomad aircraft in civil coastal surveillance in northern Australia. The Federal Transport Minister (Mr. Nixon) said four Nomads would be involved in daily surveillance along the northern coastline--three in Western Australia and the Northern Territory and the fourth on the east coast of Cape York Peninsula in Queensland. Three other Nomads equipped with Litton 360 degree radar would carry out more specialised work in northern Australia, he said. Two would be based at Darwin to patrol the routes taken by Vietnamese refugee boats and undertake general surveillance of the northern offshore islands. Another would be based on the central Queensland coast to patrol the Great Barrier Reef, mainly for detection of illegal foreign fishing vessels. This aircraft would improve the search and rescue capability of the area. Mr. Nixon said the first of the new aircraft was expected to begin operations early in the new year. [Excerpts] [Brisbane THE COURIER-MAIL in English 6 Dec 79 p 12]

FISHERIES SURVEY--Canberra.--The Australian Institute of Marine Science and the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation will combine to survey the waters of the north-west Coral Sea and the Gulf of Papua, the Science and Environment Minister (Senator Webster) said yesterday. The survey, the first detailed Australian examination of this area, would provide important data for a better understanding of fisheries resources, he said. [Text] [Brisbane THE COURIER-MAIL in English 6 Dec 79 p 16]

CSO: 5200

INDONESIA

BRIEFS

DECLARATION OF 200-MILE ZONE--Jakarta, 18 Jan (AFP)--Indonesia will within the next few weeks officially proclaim a 200-mile maritime territorial zone instead of the present recognized 12-mile limit, ANTARA NEWS AGENCY today reported Minister of Agriculture Sudarsono Hadisputro as saying. Speaking to fishermen in Tanjungluar, East Lombok, on a tour of the island yesterday, the minister urged the fishermen in connection with the expanded fishing zone to upgrade their equipment. He advised them to replace their present fishing boats using outboard engines with motorized 200 to 300-ton fishing ships to be able to operate farther out on the seas. Indonesians should be able to properly exploit their territorial waters, and at the same time prevent foreign fishing ships from encroaching on these waters, he was reported to have told the fishermen. [Text]
[BK190930 Hong Kong AFP in English 1451 GMT 18 Jan 80 BK]

CSO: 5200

BRIEFS

JAPAN-CHINA FISHING CONFLICT--Tokyo, 4 Feb (KYODO)--The maritime safety agency Monday cautioned China to keep its fishing boats from straying into Japan's exclusive fishery zone off Nagasaki Prefecture. The notice was delivered verbally to the Chinese Embassy in Tokyo in connection with a fleet of 44 Chinese vessels which was found catching grayling some 10 km southwest of Tsushima Island Saturday night through Sunday morning. When ordered out by a Japanese patrol boat which detected the territorial violation, the Chinese fishermen left the waters where they had started operating around 20 January. Maritime safety authorities had only last Friday warned against China's violation of Japan's economic sea zone. [Text] [Tokyo KYODO in English Time not given 4 Feb 80 OW]

CSO: 5200

NATION'S WATERS EXPANDED BY 200-MILE ZONE

Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 27 Dec 79 p 10

[Text] Natural Resources Minister Jose J. Leido Jr. reported yesterday that Philippine adoption of the 200-mile exclusive economic zone (EEZ) had expanded the area of its marine waters by 25 percent over its previously claimed territory of 520,700 square nautical miles.

He said that while the increase in Philippine marine water areas at the same time reduced the marine territories of some neighboring countries.

Leido pointed out that this situation has brought about curtailment of free access to fishing areas and creation of fish-deficit countries.

According to him, statistics gathered by the Food and Agriculture organization indicated that in 1972 when few exclusive economic zones existed, 28 percent of the world catch or 16.4 million tons, were caught by distant-water fishing fleets off the coast of other countries.

European countries alone, he said will reduce their fish supply by 4.7 million tons per year.

Leido said that the closing of the option to fish in distant waters will also push fish-consuming countries to acquire fish either through normal commercial lines or through inter-country ventures.

He pointed out that the major and immediate effects of the EEZ regime on the country will be trade creation and increasing offers for foreign participation in the exploitation of fishery resources.

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THAILAND

BRIEFS

NATURAL GAS FIND--Union Oil has found additional deposits of natural gas in its Prathong and Kraphong structure, block 10. Revised estimates by the company show that gas deposits in this concession area are 0.75 trillion cubic feet as against the original estimate of 0.50 trillion cubic feet, deputy governor of the Petroleum Authority of Thailand, Mr Pratin Phathanaphong, said. This revised estimate of gas deposits will enable Union Oil Company to produce 125 million cubic feet of natural gas a day for a period of 20 years as compared to the original estimated daily production of only 75 million cubic feet. [Excerpt] [Bangkok POST in English 17 Jan 80 p 19 BK]

CSO: 5200

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

PERUVIAN SUPPORT REAFFIRMED FOR BOLIVIAN SEA OUTLET

PY242113 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 20 Jan 80 p 9 PY

[Text] Peru has reaffirmed its full support for Bolivia in its struggle to obtain an outlet to the Pacific Ocean. Peruvian President Francisco Morales Bermudez reasserted this position to Bolivian Foreign Minister Julio Garret Aillon during a meeting he held in Lima with foreign ministers from Andean countries.

Foreign Minister Garret told PRESENCIA in this regard that "there is a general consensus among Andean countries that international solidarity with the Bolivian cause must now enter a new active stage in the search for specific solutions to achieve a sovereign outlet on the Pacific for Bolivia."

He said that because of this solidarity the solution that is proposed must take into account the real interests and needs of the countries involved in the issue. He added that Bolivia must first achieve "a great national agreement to define very clearly the position we must support in the next negotiations."

He said that until now there have been several opinions and disagreements in this regard. He added that the proper thing for Bolivians to do is to agree on the solution our country will propose in future negotiations.

About his meeting with President Morales Bermudez, Foreign Minister Garret Aillon stated that the president had said that he had issued instructions to grant Bolivia free zones in the ports of Ilo and Matarani. He said that Bolivian-Peruvian negotiations in this regard would start on 15 February.

Garret noted that President Morales had ordered the construction of the Ilo-La Paz and Matarani-Desaguadero roads to aid the movement of Bolivian goods to those Peruvian ports.

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INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

COLOMBIAN NAVY INTERFERENCE WITH NICARAGUAN FISHING BOATS PROTESTED

Protest Note

PA240008 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 0300 GMT 23 Jan 80 PA

[Protest note by Nicaraguan Foreign Affairs Ministry to Diego Uribe Vargas, Colombian foreign affairs minister, issued on 22 January in Managua, as read by Francisco Fiallo Navarro, acting Nicaraguan foreign affairs minister--recorded]

[Text] It is my duty to convey the following message from the Nicaraguan Foreign Affairs Ministry to Your Excellency, Diego Uribe Vargas, Colombian foreign affairs minister.

I regret that I must address Your Excellency in order to submit to the illustrious Colombian Government the strongest protest from the Nicaraguan Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, concerning the aggression carried out yesterday against Nicaraguan fishing boats in Nicaraguan territorial waters by warships sailing under the Colombian flag. The aggression took place in the Caribbean Sea, about 100 to 120 miles from our coast, between 14 and 15 degrees latitude north and 82 degrees 30 minutes longitude west of the Greenwich meridian.

Our fishingboats were forced to give up their nets with an abundant catch, part of the meager resources that the revolutionary government has for export.

The Nicaraguan Foreign Affairs Ministry wants Your Excellency to know that the Nicaraguan Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction considers this incident an act of aggression which we denounce as an unjustified provocation. We are immediately taking the necessary measures to recover the nets with the catch.

We are especially bringing this incident to Your Excellency's attention to prevent further intervention by the Colombian Navy in legitimate Nicaraguan business. The Colombian Navy's unjustified action is contrary to the traditional and fraternal relations that have always existed between the people and governments of Nicaragua and Colombia.

Our government is justified in firmly demanding that hostile acts on the part of Colombia cease and that any conflict that could exist between our countries be solved within the norms of international law based on the cordial relations and coexistence that should prevail between the two neighboring countries.

My government expects to receive from the illustrious Colombian Government not just an adequate explanation, but the assurance that such an act of aggression will not occur again and guarantee that Nicaraguan boats can sail undisturbed in our territorial waters, exploiting the sea wealth which is part of our resources.

Reiterating my highest esteem to Your Excellency, Francisco Fiallos Navarro, acting foreign affairs minister.

Complaint to Colombian Ambassador

PA240009 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 23 Jan 80 PA

[Excerpts] Nicaragua has reported an act of aggression by Colombia. Colombian warships forced six Nicaraguan fishing boats to abandon the fishing grounds where they were at dawn Monday in waters which are considered to be under Nicaraguan jurisdiction.

The Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry has reported that the government has instructed the captains of the boats which were victims of the aggression by the Colombian frigates to return to the area of the incident and recover the fish traps or nets and the substantial catch they had obtained despite the presence of the Colombian ships.

The authorities of the Nicaraguan Fishing Institute are still in contact with the captains and we expect the Colombian ships will allow them to exercise a sovereign right because the incident took place only 120 miles from Puerto Cabezas, acting Foreign Minister Francisco Fiallos Navarro said during a news conference.

During the news conference with local reporters and foreign correspondents, acting Foreign Minister Fiallos read the note containing the strong protest of the Managua government to the Bogota government, delivered here to Colombian Ambassador Fernando Navas de Brigard.

The Nicaraguan acting foreign minister added that a Colombian military aircraft flew over the Nicaraguan vessels which were forced to abandon the patrolling grounds. The Nicaraguan official expressed confidence that this new incident will not set a precedent, hoping Colombia will permit the Nicaraguan fishing activities to continue in that area of shallow waters over the Nicaraguan continental shelf, as it has been a traditional fishing ground for our fishermen.

Fiallos reiterated that Nicaragua is not a warring nation and that we want to find a solution to the problem through legal channels, as has been stated by the members of our governing junta.

Recently, Nicaraguan jurist Luis Pasos Arguello charged at a news conference that Colombia is actually trying to get its hands on the oil existing in this part of our country's continental shelf. He also pointed out to the group of Andean Pact nations the imperialistic attitude of Colombia which, (?supporting) the principle of the 200-mile territorial waters, denies this right to Nicaragua.

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

COLOMBIAN NAVY DISCLAIMS INCIDENT WITH NICARAGUAN FISHING BOATS

'Invited To Leave'

PA231359 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0113 GMT 23 Jan 80 PA

[Excerpts] Bogota, 22 Jan (EFE)--The Colombian Navy tonight warned that it will maintain guard over Caribbean islands and keys and indicated that no incident had taken place with Nicaraguan boats. Instead, it said that Nicaraguan boats had been invited to leave Colombia's territorial sea. The reaction in Bogota followed charges by Nicaraguan Acting Foreign Minister Francisco Piallos Navarro that "Colombian warships on Monday forced six Nicaraguan boats to leave a fishing area considered to be inside jurisdictional waters."

A Colombian Navy spokesman who asked not to be identified told EFE that warships are patrolling the waters off the Roncador, Quitasueno and Serrana keys as a result of a sea dispute between the two countries. The source said the "alleged incident" between Colombian warships and Nicaraguan fishing boats had occurred during the course of normal patrols by the Colombian Navy which had discovered that the Nicaraguan boats had allegedly violated territorial waters within the 200-mile sea limit. "I would not say it was an incident but a cordial invitation to leave Colombia's territorial sea since the Nicaraguan fishermen violated the 200-mile sea limit probably without realizing it," the military spokesman said.

Ministry Denies Territorial Violation

PA231707 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1100 GMT 23 Jan 80 PA

[Text] Bogota--The Defense Ministry has denied that Colombian warships violated Nicaraguan territorial waters as was stated in a report originating in Managua. According to this report, Colombian Navy ships reportedly had intercepted six Nicaraguan fishing boats and seized their cargo near the San Andres and Providencia islands, Colombian possessions located approximately 80 miles off the Nicaraguan coast.

Defense Minister Luis Carlos Camacho Leiva affirmed that no violation of Nicaraguan territorial waters had occurred. On the contrary, he said, we have airborne units and warships patrolling the Caribbean but they are doing so in order to defend our national sovereignty. The areas of the Caribbean in question, which were granted to Colombia by a 1928 treaty, are being claimed by the Sandinist regime which has extended its territorial sea limit to 200 miles.

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INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

BRIEFS

NICARAGUAN REFUSAL TO COLOMBIAN YACHT--Bogota, 22 Jan (EFE)--The Nicaraguan Government refused to help a Colombian-registered yacht which declared itself in distress in Caribbean waters over the weekend, the CARACOL radio network reported here tonight. The report added that the yacht, which was on a cruise of the Caribbean, had been adrift in waters near Nicaragua since the weekend due to engine trouble. After declaring itself in distress, the yacht carrying 40 people, including passengers and crew members, asked for help from a Nicaraguan naval station. The station refused to come to the aid of the yacht. The incident which the control tower of the San Andres and Providencia airport learned of occurred prior to Monday's incident between Colombian warships and Nicaraguan fishing boats in the Caribbean Sea. [Text] [PA231400 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0157 GMT 23 Jan 80 PA]

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ECUADOR

BRIEFS

EXCLUSIVE FISHING ZONE EXTENDED--Quito, 17 Jan (EFE)--Ecuador has extended its exclusive fishing zone from 60 to 100 nautical miles by means of a decree approved by the plenum of committees of the National Chamber of Representatives. The decree forbids commercial fishing by foreign ships inside that area. However, one of the articles of the decree makes an exception by stipulating that foreign ships may legally catch up to a maximum of 800 tons each as long as they sell 20 percent of their catch to Ecuadorean enterprises. [Text] [PA180407 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0109 GMT 18 Jan 80 PA]

CSO: 5200

USSR

FLOATING DRILLING EQUIPMENT FOR OIL, GAS DEVELOPED

LD240002 Moscow TASS in English 1655 GMT 23 Jan 80 LD

[Text] Moscow, January 23, TASS--Specialists in the Soviet Union are developing a number of seaborne floating drilling installations designed to drill oil and gas wells to depths reaching up to six kilometres with sea depths up to 200 metres. The first installation has already been assembled and sent to the area of the exploitation.

While previous Soviet installations were transported by water by tug-boats only to the place of exploitation and then they extended their steel "legs" to the sea-bed with their drills boring into the shelf. This new installations is always in a floating position. It has a drilling equipment with a tower with a height over 50 metres, powerful drilling pumps and equipment for cementing the wells.

Special devices absorb sea rocking ensuring the safety of drilling mechanisms against hard pushes. The steel platform is kept seaborne by two big pontoons and, in the drilling point, by eight 18 ton anchors.

A system of controlling the position of the drilling installation in operation was used for the first time. It registers a slightest deviation. Instruments keep the drilling process under constant control.

Comfortable one and two-seat booths await the workers after the shift. The floating drilling installation has a reserve of fuel which allows it 30 days of autonomous operation.

Soon, Soviet specialists will embark on another project--a drilling vessel with dynamic stabilisation. A system of propellers switched on and off automatically depending on the direction of the waves, the current and the wind, will keep the ship in a required position.

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